



GARY R. HERBERT
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Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

March 15, 2011

Corey Thurston
Western Clay Company
PO Box 127
Aurora, Utah 84620

Subject: Approval of Amended Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations (NOI), Western Clay Company, Bentonite Pits Mine, M/041/0012, Sevier County, Utah

Dear Mr. Thurston:

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining approves your proposal to amend the NOI for the Bentonite Pits mine. The proposed amendment was received by mail on February 14, 2011, with supplementary material received by electronic mail on March 10, 2011 and March 15, 2011.

You are now permitted to perform mining operations on the Sheep Trail North Extension, located on 4.7 acres of private land to the north of the Sheep Trail North area. As proposed, mining will be prohibited on 4.7 acres of undisturbed lands within your existing permit boundary in order to avoid increasing your bond with the Division. These 4.7 acres (consisting of four small areas of private and SITLA lands identified on the surface facilities map provided to the Division) will be off-limits to mining-related disturbance until revegetation of the Sheep Trail North Extension disturbance is complete, or until some other bond modification or allocation has been approved by the Division.

Your current bond is \$428,000, and covers an areal disturbance of 68 acres. Your surety will be reviewed in 2015 or as needed to ensure adequate reclamation bonding. We encourage you to continue your ongoing reclamation work as a means to reduce your current bond and to minimize your reclamation costs at the end of the mine life.

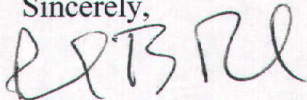
Enclosed is a copy of the "approved" documents for your files. Please keep your plan current by submitting changes using Form MR-REV, which is located on the web at www.ogm.utah.gov.



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Corey Thurston
M/041/0012
March 15, 2011

All future correspondence should reference M/041/0012. Thank you for your help and patience in finalizing this permitting action. Please call me if you have any questions in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PBB', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Paul B. Baker
Minerals Program Manager

PBB:pnb:eb

Enclosure: Revised Page 3 of NOI

Revised Base Map

Revised Surface Facilities Map

cc: John Blake, SITLA

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